

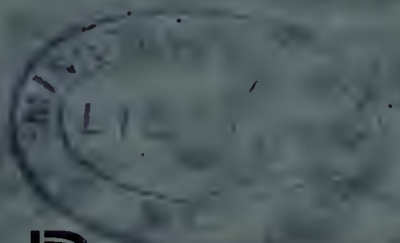
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# CLARE RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk

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# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

# 1952



To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Clare Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1952, on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Clare Rural District.

The Vital Statistics for the year reviewed showed no particular trend and the number of cases of notifiable disease, although rather greater than the previous year, remained low. One case of poliomyelitis was notified.

It is not possible, unfortunately, to take anything but a gloomy view of the Sanitary Circumstances of the Rural District as a whole, while the sewage disposal facilities continue to be dangerously inadequate and so primitive.

I wish to express my appreciation of the help which I have received from Mr. J. Allpress, the Clerk of the Council, and Mr. H. A. Smith, Senior Sanitary Inspector. I should also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and encouragement during the period reviewed.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

*Figures in brackets relate to the corresponding figures for 1951*

Area of the District ... ..	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes ... ..	24
Rateable Value ... ..	£35,985
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£147
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books	2989 (2967)
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ... (9,426)	9,527
„ (1951 Census) ... ..	9,406

### VITAL STATISTICS

#### *Live Births :*

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	(77) 68	(63) 48	(140) 116
Illegitimate ... ..	(4) 2	(4) 5	(8) 7
Totals ...	(81) 70	(67) 53	(148) 123

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	(15.7)	12.9
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (adjusted)	15.6 (19.0)	
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	(15.5)	15.3
Illegitimate Birth Rate ... ..	(5.7%)	6.5%

#### *Still Births :*

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	(2) 1	(—) 1	(2) 2
Illegitimate ... ..	(1) —	(—) —	(1) —
Totals ...	(3) 1	(—) 1	(3) 2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	... (20.2)	16.0
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#### *Deaths :*

	Male	Female	Total		
	(78) 62	(81) 68	(159) 130		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)			(16.9)	13.7	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted)			(13.3)	10.8	
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)			(12.5)	11.3	
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion					Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Male		Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	(2)	1	—	(2) 1
Illegitimate ... ..	(1)	—	—	(1) —
Totals ...	(3)	1	—	(3) 1

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	(20.2)	8.1
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	(15.0)			8.6
(c) All Infants England and Wales ...	...	...	(29.6)	27.6

	1942	-43	-44	-45	-46	-47	-48	-49-	-50	-51	-52
Birth Rates	15.8	17.5	37.8	17.2	23.0	19.0	18.6	17.7	17.0	15.7	12.9
Death Rates	15.6	14.5	13.4	13.8	12.6	15.1	13.9	13.3	12.2	16.9	13.7

CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease	Male		Female		Total
Measles ... ..	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0) 0
Whooping Cough ... ..	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0) 0
Diphtheria ... ..	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0) 0
Diarrhœa ... ..	(1)	0	(0)	0	(1) 0
Cancer (all types) ... ..	(10)	10	(14)	15	(24) 25
Heart Diseases .. ..	(23)	17	(29)	29	(52) 46
Vascular Lesions					
of the nervous system	(6)	11	(8)	10	(14) 21
Influenza ... ..	(2)	0	(3)	0	(5) 0
Pneumonia ... ..	(6)	3	(3)	3	(9) 6
Bronchitis ... ..	(3)	1	(3)	0	(6) 1
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)	(1)	0	(0)	0	(1) 0
Accidents (all other) ...	(5)	7	(2)	3	(7) 10
Suicide ... ..	(2)	0	(1)	0	(3) 0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	(19)	13	(18)	8	(37) 21
All Causes ...	(78)	62	(81)	68	(159) 130



## SECTION B.

### *PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :*

- (a) Medical Officer of Health who also serves other districts (Appointed 1st October, 1950).
- (b) Sanitary Inspectors.  
Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. A. Smith (appointed 1st November, 1944).  
Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. Fenton (appointed 26th October, 1951).

### *HOSPITALS :*

There are no Hospitals in the area.

### *WATER SUPPLIES :*

The Council have three main sources of supply at Clare, Hundon and Great Wratting. None of these supplies show any tendency to plumbo-solvency.

#### *Clare :*

These works situated on the Upper Common supply the parish of Clare. Water is pumped from duplicate boreholes to a storage reservoir and is treated by passing over two open gravitational sand beds and finally chlorinated before being discharged into the mains.

Now that a water main has been laid through Clare from the new Hundon reservoir it will be possible to supply the Town from that source following the installation of a pressure reducing valve near Snow Hill (which it is expected will be installed in 1953). The amount of water abstracted from these two boreholes during the 12 months ended 31st October, 1952, was 10,481,600 gallons compared with 12,491,300 gallons for the previous 12 months.

Recent analysis of this water show it to be satisfactory for drinking purposes although its total hardness of 31.01 degrees (in grains per gallon) appears rather high.

#### *Hundon :*

Your works at Babel Green comprise a single borehole, engine and pump. Water is pumped through two mechanical sand filters to a partly underground reservoir West of Hundon Hall. The pumping mains also extend to supply Stradishall R.A.F. station, Hundon village is supplied from the reservoir and an alternative supply is available from the Hundon new reservoir.

Water pumped from this borehole during the period ended 31st October, 1952, was 19,736,000 gallons compared with 11,907,000 gallons for the previous 12 months.

Sample results show the water to be good and wholesome although rather hard.

#### *Great Wratting :*

This year has seen the coming into operation of a major part of your general district water scheme. A scheme which consists

of supplying the whole district from two main sources, the chief one being at Great Wratting, from whence water is pumped from duplicate boreholes to a 750,000 gallon reservoir at Hundon.

This reservoir serves, by gravitation, 18 parishes and was completed and put into use during the year.

Water is of good and wholesome quality with a hardness of 30.45 degrees (in grains per gallon).

The second part of the general scheme consists of supplying water to a newly erected Tower near Depden from the reservoir of the Thingoe R.D. Council. Boosting is necessary and these works are expected to be completed next year. Five Parishes will be served from this Tower.

#### *WATER CARTING :*

The completed Lower Level scheme of mains distribution has relieved considerably the necessity for carting water to the tanks provided throughout the area. It is hoped that towards the end of next year very few tanks will remain to give a supply of drinking water.

#### *PUMPS AND WELLS :*

Due to the provision of water in pipes some of the 24 public pumps are becoming redundant. The majority are in any case producing unfit water and users are warned not to drink before boiling. Although this "public pump notice" method is a warning it does not prevent unfit water being consumed in a raw state and the sooner your piped supply to the whole area is available the sooner danger of disease from this source will be minimised.

#### *DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :*

No major works have been installed during the year.

Your proposed Clare and Cavendish scheme not having commenced is causing increasing anxiety. Pollution of the River Stour is evident at certain sewer outfall areas, and the pipes in which sewage is conveyed are known to be leaking. It is hoped that Ministerial approval to the commencement of the scheme will be granted in the very near future.

Nuisances throughout the area are increasing due to the installation of water pipes in houses. Whilst the original house cesspool was partially satisfactory, it cannot now be expected to treat a much larger volume of sewage waste. The result is evident in the majority of villages where ditches are stagnating and filling with sewage.

Had the Council seen their way clear to press for sewerage schemes in the larger villages, the position with which the Council are now faced might have been recognised by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and one or more schemes might well have been in an advanced stage of approval.

The danger and unhealthy atmosphere in the vicinity of these open foul ditches need not be stressed, and I sincerely hope the Council will make a determined effort to have proper sewers and treatment works.

#### *PUBLIC CLEANSING and REFUSE DISPOSAL :*

One refuse collecting vehicle run by a Driver and Filler covers over 90 per cent of the houses in the area. Collections in 14 parishes take place every fortnight but only once per month in the remaining part of the area.

The same vehicle can be fitted with a pail closet waste receptacle and collection from pails in the Parishes of Clare and Cavendish is carried out fortnightly during the hours of darkness.

Refuse Tips are situated in Clare and Wickhambrook. Tipping at Clare will have to cease next year and a new tipping area will be required.

In the built up area of Clare there are about 30 closet vaults—most unhygienic. They contain upwards of 500 gallons of sewage each, and are cleaned out by a Council Contractor quarterly.

Cesspools on all Council house sites are also cleared quarterly by contract.

#### *SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA :*

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within the area.

Housing Matters	...	...	...	...	...	443
Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	90
Disinfestation and Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	5
Shops and Stores	...	...	...	...	...	57
Scavenging and Refuse Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	82
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	722
Verminous Premises and Persons	...	...	...	...	...	4
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	32
Meat and Other Foods	...	...	...	...	...	59
Other	...	...	...	...	...	90

#### *SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED :*

		Informal.	Defects Remedied.
Dwelling Houses (structural defects) ...	29	...	8
Nuisance (not included in above) ...	13	...	8
Water Supplies ... ..	3	...	2
Drainage (house)... ..	1	...	1
Privies, Ash-pits and Cesspools ...	2	...	1



## HOUSING :

### *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :*

1.	(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	62
		(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	98
	(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 ... ..	22
		(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose ...	30
	(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	16
	(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	6
2.			Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—	
			Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	16
3.			Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
	(a)		Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
		(a)	Section 9 ... .. Nil	
		(b)	Section 11 ... .. Nil	
		(c)	Section 12! ... .. Nil	
	(b)		Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
		(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	4
		(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	
		(a)	By Owners ... ..	4
		(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	Nil
			Proceedings in Magistrates' Court ...	4

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD :

### *Milk Supply :*

Retail premises registered	...	...	...	Nil
Designated Licences in force :				
Supplementary	...	...	...	4
Dealers	...	...	...	Nil

### *Meat and other Foods :*

Licensed slaughter-houses used for occasional slaughtering only	...	...	...	10
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Meat is distributed to the different butchers from a central slaughter-house situated in an adjoining area.

There are two Licensed Knackers' Yards, one at Clare and the other at Ousden.

### *Unsound Food :*

The following amounts of foodstuffs unfit for human consumption have been dealt with :

Meat	...	...	...	...	338 lbs.
Tinned Foods	...	...	...	...	97½ lbs.
Cheese	..	...	...	...	9½ lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.

### *Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 :*

There are 22 licensed slaughtermen in the area. Licences are granted for a period of 12 months and the licensing fee is 1/-.

### *Fried Fish Shops :*

There is one in the district at Clare.

### *Ice Cream Premises :*

No ice cream is manufactured in the area.

Ten premises are registered to sell ice cream in the area.

## SECTION C.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The incidence of the Notifiable Diseases during the year 1952 remained low and calls for no special comment.

Infective Hepatitis is notifiable in this District. Three cases were notified as compared with eleven for the previous year. The cases were not confined to any particular parish.

## Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 Year	1—2	3—4	5—9	10—14	15—24	25 and over	Un- known Age	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	— —	— —	(3) 1	(5) 1	(1) —	(2) —	(2) —	— —	(13) 2
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1) —	—	(1) —
Whooping Cough	— 1	(1) 5	(6) 8	(13) 22	— 2	(2) —	(3) —	— —	(25) 38
Measles.. ..	—	(1) 3	(1) 4	(2) 8	(2) —	(1) 3	— —	— —	(7) 18
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	— 1	—	—	(4) —	— —	(4) 1
Polio-myelitis ..	—	—	—	— 1	—	—	—	—	— 1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	— 1	(2) 8	(10) 13	(20) 33	(3) 2	(5) 3	(9) —	—	(49) 60

### SECTION D. TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year ..	19	10	29	4	6	10	29
No. of cases added during the year .. .. .	—	2	2	1	—	1	3
No. of cases removed during year .. .. .	1	1	2	—	—	—	2
No. remaining on register at end of year .. ..	18	11	29	5	6	11	40

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

### SECTION E. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

*Section 47.*—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No cases presented during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

## SECTION F.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

### PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	1	2	2			1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	2	42	30	8		2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises) .. ..	3					3
TOTAL .. ..		44	32	8	Nil	

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	M/e line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/e line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	4	5	5				4
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	6	1					6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	7						7
Infective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient ... ..	9	2	2				9
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. ..	10	1	1				10
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	11						11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	12	13		13			12
TOTAL ... ..		22	8	13			



*Outwork :*

77 persons are on the Council's Register as doing outwork under Section 110 of the Factories Act.

37 persons are engaged in the making of wearing apparel—  
40 in other trades.

No action was necessary under either Section of the Act during the year.

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

